

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 07471 051709Z

44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 FBO-02 A-01 AID-05

IGA-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 AGR-05 L-03 ABF-01 EB-07 /040 W

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P 051508Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 538

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: EMBASSY ANNEX MAKES NEWS AGAIN: OBASANJO

SURPRISED MINISTRY EDUCATION NOT YET IN

MOLONEY STREET BUILDING

REF: AF/W FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM

1. "NEW NIGERIAN" AUGUST 5 REPORTS THAT USAID HAS STARTED
MOVE OUT OF MOLONEY STREET BUILDING. PAPER REPORTS LORRIES
MOVING EQUIPMENT AND SAYS USIS OFFICES TO FOLLOW.

2. STROY GOES ON TO REPORT THAT NEW CHIEF OF STAFF, SUPREME
HEADQUARTERS (FORMER COMMISSIONER WORKS AND HOUSING),
BRIGADIER OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, "EXPRESSED SURPRISE" IN
TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WHEN INFORMED FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
HAD NOT RPT NOT MOVED INTO EMBASSY ANNEX. PAPER QUOTED
OBASANJO "YOU BETTER ASK THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WHY IT
HAS NOT MOVED INTO THE BUILDING." MINED OFFICIAL TOLD
PAPER THAT MINISTRY "... WAITING FOR THE OCCUPANTS TO MOVE
OUT" AND WILL MOVE IMMEDIATELY AFTER USAID AND USIS"...
LEAVE... FOR THE NEW PLACE ALLOCATED TO THEM."

3. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH COMMENT THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD
TO USE ARMED TROOPS RECENTLY" .. TO COMPEL THE TWO ORGANIZA-
TIONS TO PACK OUT OF THE PRESIMISES ADJACENT TO THE CABINET
OFFICE."

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 07471 051709Z

4. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO WALK ON EGGS ON THIS ISSUE, NOT WANTING APPEAR TO DRAG OUR FEET, BUT TRYING TO AVOID COMPLETE EVACUATION OF AID FROM MOLONEY ANNEX BEFORE RENT-FREE ISSUE IS SETTLED (STATE 177060). FACT THAT ISSUE IS A LIVE ONE WAS ATTESTED TO BY VISIT OF MEA PROTOCOL OFFICER TO CHANCERY AUGUST 5 (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL).

5. MEANWHILE, WE WILL MOVE AID C&R TO ELSIE FEMI PEARSE AUGUST 7. THAT WILL LEAVE US WITH MINIMAL REMAINING PRESENCE ON EACH OF TOP FOUR FLOORS OF MOLONEY ANNEX. SUBSEQUENT MOVE WILL COMPLETELY VACATE ONE OR ANOTHER OF THE FLOORS.

6. ROUGH PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF COST OF ENTIRE MOVE FROM EMBASSY ANNEX AND RELATED JUGGLING OF OFFICES AT CHANCERY FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL, INDICATING PRO RATA SHARE BY AGENCY AS REQUESTED STATE 165243.
CROSBY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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